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THE

History of the Plot Anatomised:

OR THE

Late Sham Fanatical-Plot,

Briefly and plainly laid open.

WHEREIN,

Those Worthy Patriots who were charged therewith, are Vindicated from the Malicious and False Aspersions cast upon them by a late Author.

In a Letter to a Friend.

Psalm 94. 20, 21. *Shall the Throne of Iniquity have fellowship with thee*, which frameth Mischief by a Law? *They gather themselves together against the Soul of the Righteous*; and condemn the Innocent Blood.

LONDON,
Printed for *M. R.* in the Year 1689.

SIR,

HAving been ſeveral times importun'd, to give you my ſentiments as to the late Presbyterian Plot (as it was called) againſt his late Majeſty, and the then D. of *Yorks* Lives, tho' I am ſenſible of my inability for ſo important a work, not only as it is an undertaking vaſtly tranſcending my Talents, but alſo as being wholly unacquainted with any of the Perſons accuſed thereof: Yet leſt I ſhould ſeem moroſe, I ſhall endeavour as briefly as may be, to communicate to you, what I could collect, after a diligent peruſal of the (pretended) *true Account of the late Horrid Conſpiracy*, and other Papers that have been publiſhed about it, and what Information I could procure otherwiſe from perſons who were more or leſs acquainted with ſome of thoſe that were charged therewith.

Who the Author of that true Account is, I never made it my buſineſs to enquire, nor was I in this Kingdom for two years after publication thereof, only if the old Proverb hold true, *Ex ungue Leonem*, I am ready to believe that this Gentleman may poſſibly have been one of thoſe who were ſo Inſtrumental in carrying on Arbitrary and Deſpotick Power, and introducing Popery and Slavery.

But ſeeing I deſign to give it you in as few words as poſſible, I ſhall forbear unneceſſary digreſſions, only ſeeing the Author ſeems to look back a little upon the Ingratitude of that Party, *in expoſing his late Majeſties moſt Juſt and Merciful Government, unto contempt*, &c. I judge it may not be unneceſſary to reflect upon ſome of the moſt remarkable paſſages ſince his late Majeſties Reſtauration. And the firſt place let any one conſider how much of his *Juſtice* was ex-

tended to them in punctually performing the Treaty at *Breda*, or of his Mercy, either in this or the Neighbouring Kingdom; witness those severe Acts that were passed here against them without the least remorse, upon a pretended, and which was afterwards prov'd a Sham-Plot, as appear'd by the Relation of it published several years ago, wherein the Publisher of it was so particular as to mention the Names of several substantial Persons about this City of undoubted Credit, with the places of their abode, who would avouch the truth thereof) whereas when the Bill for Uniting of Protestants, and the ease of Protestant Dissenters had past both Houses, it was put by that it might not pass into an Act; which if it had, would both have prevented what designs they might afterwards have on foot, either for their own security in particular, or of preserving their Liberty, and the Protestant Religion in general, and that Inevitable Danger the whole Protestant Interest, not only in these three Kingdoms, but even all Europe over was exposed to, had not God miraculously inspired that Renowned Prince (whose Noble Progenitors have been signally honoured by God to be Instruments of bringing back the Captivity of his *Sion*, and delivering them from the Insupportable Burthens laid upon their backs by Idolatrous, and beyond all comparison, inhumanely Barbarous and Mercileſs Papists:) I say, had it not pleased God to eat up as it were that Religious Prince with the Zeal of his House to that height, that he resolved to hazard not only his Estate, but even his Life it self, rather than not appear for the Defence of the Protestant Religion at such a Juncture when Popery was coming in like a Flood to overflow our Land, and to Crown him with Success suitable to so Pious and Noble an Enterprize. This in short may satisfie the World how great sharers the Dissenters in this Kingdom were either of his Justice or Mercy.

As for those of the Neighbouring Kingdom, 'twould swell a Book

a Book to a Volume, to recount the many Oppreſſions they groaned under, even before they could be charged with any Rebellion, ſave that in the Reign of King *Charles* the Firſt, wherein the generality of both Nations were concerned: And I may truly ſay, that the ground of that Aſſociation of the Nobility and Gentry, of that Kingdom, and taking up Arms againſt their Soveraign, was the Impoſing of the Service-Book without having the Concurrence of the Parliament thereto, with ſome other Oppreſſions of the like nature. It's well known that ſeveral Perſons were Executed in *Scotland* after the late King's Reſtauration, who could not have been charged with any Crime more than what the generality of the People there, might have been accuſed of, meerly upon the account of being Presbyterians. And how ſeverely thoſe in *Galloway*, and places adjacent, were oppreſt, having Souldiers quartered upon them, to whom they were not only obliged to give Free Quarters, but likewiſe ſix pence a day to each Souldier; all which they patiently lay under ſo long as they had wherewith to pacifie that barbarous Crew; but at laſt, all being eat up, their long continued Oppreſſion, which according to that of *Solomon*, maketh even the wiſe man mad; upon an accidental Engagement upon their own defence with ſome of the Souldiers, wherein ſome few of them were killed, the Country People fearing they ſhould be ſeverely puniſhed, although they had only defended themſelves againſt the Outrage of the Souldiers, got to a Body, and took up Arms in the year 1666. for their own defence; after which time, not only the Perſons who were actually concerned, who were but a very ſmall number in compariſon of the reſt, but the whole Body of the Presbyterians there were branded with the names of Rebels and Enemies to the Government; and what Treatment many of them have had ſince that time, was little inferiour to that the French Proteſtants had from the Dragoons.

goons. These things I only thought fit to mention in general, to shew that even before they had appeared in Arms, the Mercy that was extended to them was not such as some men would make the World believe. But to proceed.

He tells you in the first place how his Majesty, When he had suffered such Abuses, and personal Affronts from those seditious Persons, yet could have no Redress here while by their packing the Juries, as in *Colledge*'s case, *&c.* but was forced to remove that Infamous Person into another County. How conformable that was to the Laws of the Land, I will not determine; however this I may say, that whatever that Person might be guilty of, it may be shrewdly suspected, that several of his Evidence were no honester men than those who are so meerly by profession.

Another Instance he gives is the Earl of *Shaftesbury*, who whatever this Gentleman may say in general of his Notorious Crimes for which he was discarded, yet he does not, and without doubt could not, lay any thing in particular to his charge, during his Discharge of that Office, and some of his greatest Enemies have acknowledged him to have acquitted himself as well as any that ever was in that Station, he having till that time behaved himself with the height of Loyalty, even in the acception of those who under that sacred name palliated their Arbitrary designs: Nor can he much stain his Memory by any thing that he charges him with, when acquitted by the *Ignoramus* Jury, especially if we consider what Captain *Wilkinson* declared as to his having been tampered with, and that with such Temptations as might in all probability have prevailed upon those who were not a great deal above the common size of Honesty, and that the Persons that came to him among other things after such large proffers as they made him, told him, that though they had several Witnesses, yet they were such Fellows, (as honest men, as our Gentleman terms them) that

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no Body would believe; and that it could enter into the mind of no rational man, that the Earl of *Shaftesbury*, if either his Quality or Wisdom were considered, would admit such Persons into his Company, much less joyn Counsels with them; but that such a man as the Captain was, both in regard of the Reputation he had in the World for Honesty, and of his having been known to have been frequently admitted into the said Earls presence, about his Concerns in *Carolina*, would be easily believed; and so could they have then perverted this Honest Gentleman, they might have taken off this (for ought I could ever yet hear then Innocent) Nobleman, meerly because he was so indefatigably Industrious in unravelling that Hellish Popish Conspiracy that had been a hatching for the overthrowing the Protestant Religion in these Kingdoms; Nay, his late Majesty himself was pleased to say to the Captain in Council (when he was sent for before them upon his Emitting this Narrative) that if he would really say upon his honest word that what he had published therein was true, he would believe him, which he did: Yet the Accusers of that Nobleman, to salve their Credit, were pleased to Indict him of High Treason, but we never yet heard that they called him to answer to the Indictment. And besides, it cannot but be fresh in the Memories of a great many, that the very same honest Men the Witnesses, a little before the Tryal, were drinking in a Tavern without or near *Temple-Bar*, and in their Cups quarrelled with one another, and saluted one another with the names of Perjured Rogue, you had---*pounds* for swearing against *Colledge*, &c. The Man of the house, and some that were with him having over-heard them, had them before a Justice, but the Justice either out of Fear, or some other sinister Motive dismissed them. Now let our Author brand that Jury with what Ignominious Names he pleases, I appeal to all the World, whether, these particulars

lars conſidered, that *Ignoramus* Jury, as it was then ignominiouſly called, could according to Conſcience proceed otherwiſe than they did. And beſides, my Lord *Howard* himſelf, who was afterwards one of the Evidences, in all his Depoſitions mentions nothing of this, who undoubtedly had the Earl of *Shaftesbury* been projecting any ſuch deſign at that time, would have had it readilier communicated to him, than any Iriſh Evidence, and was a Perſon that could have contributed much more Aſſiſtance. So that I humbly conceive our Author might have done himſelf and the Party he eſpouſed much more ſervice had he omitted this Relation; for every reaſonable man muſt needs conclude this to have been a meer Sham; and if our Author commits ſuch a grand eſcape as this in the beginning of his Hiſtory, he may run the riſque of forfeiting the Credit of the whole. But I perceive that he has been carried out with ſuch a precipitant Zeal in vindicating my Lord Mayor's Abſolute Prerogative in Chuſing Sheriffs, and the Taking away the City Charter, that he has a little forgot himſelf, and ſo verified the Old Proverb, *Canis feſtinans cæcos parit catulos.*

But ſeeing our Author glories ſo much in this Piece of Juſtice, that now things were returned into their right Channel; I think, ſeeing we may ſay ſo now from a much better ground, that as the Arbitrary Proceedings of ſeveral Malicious Men are now like to be called in Queſtion; it would not be amiſs if Sir *John Moore*, who introduced thoſe Sheriffs contrary to the Vote and Election of the Livery, be made give an Account of his then Proceedings; and that if he can prove that as he was Mayor he had ſuch a Power inherent in him, then he ſhall ſatisfie the World that he has done nothing but what became a good Patriot, tho' I will not ſay but he might have made choice of better Perſons: And if he has Uſurped that Power at the Inſtigation of the Court, that then the ſaid Sir *John Moore* is as liable to puniſhment, if

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not more, than any Perſon now in Cuſtody, he having taken down the Hedge of our Security, and made the firſt Breach for Tyranny and Arbitrary Power, for beſides the introducing ſuch Sheriffs as furniſht us with ſuch Juries as were wholly at the devotion of the Court, whereby originally, the Guilt of all Innocent Perſons that were executed ſince that time is to be laid to his door, ſo likewiſe the ſame action of his made way for the turning out old Aldermen, taking away of the City Charter, upon which enſued the taking away of all other Charters throughout the Kingdom, which has proved of ſo fatal Conſequence to us ſince.

He next proceeds to ſet forth the indirect ways uſed by the Factious Party in *Scotland*, of whom he ſays the Earl of *Argile*, and Preſident of the Seſſion were the Heads, againſt whom he vomits up his Gall for wording of the Teſt, and adding thereto the very ſame Clauſes that have ſince given any colour of ſcruple to themſelves. But pray what were thoſe Clauſes? I doubt the Author was afraid to name them, leſt he ſhould have diſcovered himſelf of what Kidney he was. However for ſatisfaction to the World I ſhall here ſet them down; The ſaid Earl of *Argile* and Preſident of the Seſſion being two of the Lords of the Articles, whoſe buſineſs it is to draw up all Bills that are to be preſented to the Parliament in order to be paſſed into Acts, upon mentioning of the Bill made no Oppoſition againſt it, only the ſaid Noble Patriots ſaid, That as it was very neceſſary to preſerve the Succeſſion in the right Line, ſo it was no leſs requiſite that at the ſame time a Clauſe ſhould be inſerted in it for the maintaining of the Proteſtant Religion; which motion, tho' it galled ſome then at *Helm* there, as being a great Obſtruction in their way, yet could not be refuſed, leſt there deſigns ſhould appear above-board, and then it would have been wholly rejected. And this Action of the ſaid Earls brought down that wrath upon his Head

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which was afterwards the cauſe of all his Troubles and Misfortunes. For a little afterwards he was Impeached of High Treaſon, and illegally condemned, as all the moſt Eminent Lawyers in that place gave it under their hand; which Paper the ſaid Earl had with him at the time of his Eſcape, otherwiſe could thoſe in Power then have found it, they had been ſerved with the ſame ſawce. As for the Jury that condemned him, tho' our Author affirms them to have been moſt of his own Relations, yet it is well known that the Marqueſs of *Montroſe* (who was Foreman of the Jury) tho' his Couſin, yet always bore a great hatred to him, there having been for above theſe hundred years an irreconcileable Hatred betwixt theſe two Families, nor was there any of the Jury that were well affected to him. And for the other Nobleman, he being warned of his Danger by the Earls Treatment, thought it requiſite for him to withdraw himſelf, that he might not likewiſe become a Sacrifice to the rage of his inveterate Enemies, and went into *Holland*, where he ſtaid till of late; in all which time he acquitted himſelf ſo well, that malice it ſelf could not charge him with any ſeditious practices. It is no leſs falſe, that his Life was not intended to be taken away; for it is well known that the Gentleman who was ſent up in order to procure his Pardon, found it utterly impoſſible to be obtained, and therefore diſpatcht an Expreſs to his Friends, wherein he acquainted them, that unleſs he could make his eſcape out of the Caſtle of *Edinburgh*, where he was then Priſoner, he would certainly be Executed in a few days; this Expreſs arrived but four hours before the Poſt, and when the Poſt was come, which among other things had the Warrant for his Execution, the Captain of the ſaid Caſtle being not to be found for an hour or two after, the Earl in the mean while made his Eſcape. When the Captain came home, which was about Nine or Ten a Clock at Night, he

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ſent to the Earl of *Argile*'s Apartment to ſhew that he muſt ſpeak with his Lordſhip, they having been privy to his Eſcape, anſwered, that he was not well, and was then aſleep; notwithſtanding he came into his Chamber, in order to acquaint him with the day of his Execution, and after ſearch found no man there but his Page lying on his Bed.

But, to proceed to this Plot, as it was pretended to be managed here, the Deſigns were ſaid to be to Aſſaſſinate the King, particularly at the *Rye-houſe*, as he was coming from *New-Market*, and to raiſe a Rebellion. And theſe Bloody Deſigns were ſaid to have been carried on by two different Clubs, to wit, one of ſeveral Commoners, and the other of a Council of ſix, whereof moſt were Noble-men.

I ſhall firſt make a little ſcrutiny into the former; *viz.* that wherein *Keeling*, *Weſt*, *&c.* were concerned. And about the pretended Diſcovery of this Plot (or rather Trapan) for to gain the further Credit to it, a great Noiſe was made about the Fire that a little before was in *New-Market*, which, ſaid they, had it not happened, His Majeſty and the Duke had undoubtedly been cut off; *viz.* if His Majeſty had not by reaſon of that Fire been forced to come unexpectedly to *London*, and that a fortnight before the time he uſed to part thence at; and it is well known how many Pulpits reſounded with this. And as, after the beſt obſervation I could make of all the Paſſages that I heard of, I always was, ſo I ſtill am of opinion, that that Fire was ſet on purpoſe by ſome of the Popiſh Party to gain Credit to this Plot.

For, had not this Fire conſumed ſome of the King's Apartments, he would have ſtaid his uſual time at *New-Market*, and then having incurred no danger by the way, this Plot would have loſt all its Nerves and Sinews; for then few would have believed they had any ſuch deſign; ſeeing if they had, they would not have neglected ſuch an opportunity as that. Nor were the Preparations ſuitable to

ſuch an undertaking made; and tho' there were ſome very fooliſh perſons among them, yet 'tis well known that Mr. *Ferguſon* and ſome others were of greater Policy than to undertake ſuch a dangerous Enterprize, and not have all things ſuitable for it prepared before-hand, and rather than failed of it, would have waited thereabouts a fortnight before, if not had ſome likewiſe at *New-Market* to give them certain notice of the day; But inſtead of that, no Preparations at all; but *Weſt*, as he ſaid, had bought forty ſtand of Arms, for which he ſaid he had the money at laſt from Mr. *Ferguſon*; tho' it's more probable, as will appear afterwards, that *Weſt* might have this money ſome other way, may be from ſome of the Popiſh Faction, to the end that thoſe Arms being ſeized, might prove a Confirmation to their Depoſitions, which ſo much ſtood in need of it. Nor are their Depoſitions reſtricted to this only, at the *Rye-Houſe*, for they ſay that they would do it there, or at the *Play-Houſe*, or as he went to *Windſor*, or at *Whitehall*, *&c.* A plain Demonſtration that they had not fixed upon that particular place; and that being the place in all probability they could have moſt eaſily effected that deſign in, conſequently they had not agreed upon any ſuch deſign.

In the next place, this may be confirmed by the concurring Teſtimony of all the perſons that were Executed, who denied their ever having given any conſent to any ſuch deſign, as to Aſſaſſinate the King, (*Hone* only excepted, who talked more like a Mad-man than any thing elſe, he having declared that he was for killing the King, and ſaving the Duke, and when both the Judges, and that Gentleman D.C. ſince Bp. of C--- (who has lately been obliged to run his Country) wondring thereat, askt him why he was for killing the King, and ſaving the Duke, he at laſt replyed, that he was a poor ignorant man. He likewiſe declared that he was brought in by *Keeling*, who, he ſaid, was more guilty

guilty than any of them. So that what this *Hone* ſaid ſignified not much as to the reſt, for he having been a perſon of ſo mean parts, might be eaſily brought to ſay any thing Monſieurs the Witneſſes pleaſed.

Captain *Walcot* at the place of his Execution, tho' he died with all the ſigns of one that had a ſuitable impreſſion of another World upon him, and ſo would no doubt have cleared his Conſcience by confeſſion of ſo foul a Crime, and begging pardon for it, had he been guilty of it, yet utterly denies his having ever conſented to ſuch an horrid Deſign; beſides that the ſaid Captain is ſaid by Coll. *Rumſey* to have been a long time at leaſt againſt it. And the ſaid Captain likewiſe declared that 'twas Col. *Rumſey* that firſt introduced him into thoſe Meetings, where, ſuch dangerous things were diſcourſed of; and that he, and *Weſt*, and *Keeling*, were the forwardeſt to talk of ſuch things.

Mr. *Rouſe* likewiſe utterly denies his having ever aſſented to any ſuch deſign; and beſides, that the words which were ſpoke by the Witneſſes in their hearing were made uſe of as Evidence againſt them.

And Mr. *Holloway* who was taken at *Nevis*, in his Anſwer to the many Queſtions propoſed to him by Sheriff *Daniel*, particularly as to this deſign of Aſſaſſinating the King and Duke, confirms the ſame: For he utterly denied that any ſuch thing was agreed upon; nay on the contrary, that there were but very few for it, to uſe his own words, not above four or five, of whom *Rumſey*, *Weſt* and *Keeling* were three, and that the reſt looking upon it as a deſign which ſo ſmall a number could not accompliſh without their Aid and Aſſiſtance, took no further notice of it. And being askt in particular if Captain *Walcot*, *Rouſe*, and *Ferguſon* were for that deſign of cutting off the King, he anſwered in the negative. And it is worth the while to take notice how ſevere a check this Sheriff had at Court,

for his propoſing ſo many Queſtions to this Priſoner, which plainly ſhews that ſome there were afraid leſt their Tricks ſhould appear to the World; and the truth is, by the ſincerity of this perſon a great deal of the *Odium* of this Plot was removed, the moſt hainous part of it then ſeeming in in all probability to have been a Contrivance of their Adverſaries.

And Mr. *Rumbold* himſelf, who is ſaid by them to have been one of the deepeſt in this Conſpiracy, at his Execution in *Scotland* utterly denied his in the leaſt conſenting to any ſuch Barbarous Deſign.

And Mr. *Nelthrope*, at his Execution in the Weſt of *England* in the year 1685. proteſted that it was a thing highly againſt his Judgment, and which he always deteſted, and that he never was in the leaſt concerned in it, neither in purſe nor perſon, nor ever knew of any Arms bought for that intention, nor did believe there was any ſuch deſign, or that he ever heard of any diſappointment in ſuch an Affair, or Arms, or Time, or Place, ſave what after the general deſign, Mr. *Weſt* ſpoke of as to Arms bought by him.

To conclude, *Zachary Bourne*, who was likewiſe one of the Evidence, and who had the Plot communicated to him by *Ferguſon*, in whoſe Houſe he lodged never mentions Mr. *Ferguſon*'s ſpeaking any thing to him of that Aſſaſſination, tho' he ſays that one *Roe* ſpoke to him of it, and *Weſt*.

By all which it plainly appears that there was no deſign of Aſſaſſinating the King and Duke; but that this horrid project of taking off the King, was at firſt propoſed by the Witneſſes, on purpoſe to enſnare others, and that the ſame, tho' ſome few were brought over, was abſolutely upon propoſal rejected by moſt of them, and thoſe who did reject it, being three times the number of the others, knew that they could not effect it by themſelves, and ſo took no further notice of it. I ſay, it plainly appears to have been ſo,

if

if we consider, under what suitable apprehensions of Eternity all those that were Executed, went off this World. And that they were so ingenuous as to confess there had been some design on foot, which, how honest soever it might have been, yet seeing it would be interpreted an Association against the Government, could not excuse them, as matters then went, from being made Examples of Justice. And it is well known that the Principles of the Protestant Religion do not allow any man to go out of this World with a Lye in his Mouth, tho' those of the Romish (if I may so call it) Church do. And I cannot but wonder when I reflect how a great many Protestants should have been so lavish in their Charity to Papists, as to conclude, because they all went off the World, denying the Crimes for which they were justly condemned, (especially when they know what Injunctions are laid upon them by their Priests; *viz.* that they may confess nothing that may prejudice Mother-Church under pain of Damnation) that they were Innocent of the Crimes they were accused of, and yet have so little to spare to those of their own Faith, who yet they know cannot die with any Comfort, or hopes of Pardon, except they make a frank Confession of the Crimes they are guilty of, much less if they persist in an obstinate Denyal thereof. But it is well known that the Papists not only went off the World with a Lye in their Mouths as to their being guilty of the Horrid Crimes they were condemned for, but likewise as to their having ever before their Tryal been with any of the Witnesses that appeared against them, when yet 'twas well known that they had been very familiar with them. To mention only one of them, the late Lord *Stafford* in his last Paper declared with great asseverations that he had never seen *Stephen Dugdale* before his Tryal, whereas a little after his Execution, it was proved by the Depositions of above fifteen Witnesses, who all lived by his Countrey

House,

Houſe, that the ſaid *Stephen Dugdale* was often familiarly entertained by the ſaid Lord *Stafford*, and that he has left the Company of ſeveral conſiderable Gentlemen to diſcourſe with the ſaid *Dugdale*, and that they had been obſerved diſcourſing ſeveral times above an hour together; which may fully inform us what credit is to be given to any of that Perſuaſion, as to any thing relating to the advancement of Mother Churches Intereſt.

I ſhall now proceed to the Plot ſaid to be managed by that Council of Six; *viz.* The Duke of *Monmouth*, the Earl of *Eſſex*, the Lord *Ruſſel*, the Lord *Howard*, Collonel *Algernon Sidney*, and Mr. *John Hambden*, Junior. Where we ſhall briefly take notice of what is moſt Remarkable in the Tryals of thoſe of them who were Arraigned, and what is obſervable as to others who were not.

I ſhall begin with my Lord *Ruſſel*'s Tryal, and firſt in the Evidence of Colonel *Rumſey*, I find this ſeeming contradiction; *viz.* That he being ſent by the Earl of *Shafteſbury* to the ſaid Lord then at Mr. *Sheppard*'s with the Duke of *Monmouth*, Lord *Gray*, Sir *Thomas Armſtrong*, and Mr. *Ferguſon*, to know if the Riſing in *Taunton* went on, and that they, or ſome of them returned anſwer that it did not go on, and that yet they afterwards had a diſcourſe about viewing the Guards, in order to ſeize them, when notwithſtanding he ſays afterward that they were only to ſeize the Guards, when the Riſing went on. Beſides, it is more than probable that the Duke of *Monmouth*, or Sir *Thomas Armſtrong* knew well enough before what poſture the Guards were in, and how to ſurprize them, without all that debate which he ſays was held there. And this is all the Evidence this Souldier of Fortune gives in, which yet might have been done without any deſign againſt the Kings Perſon.

Another

Another thing is in Mr. *Sheppard's* Evidence, who was at the same time at that meeting in his own House, who, besides his saying in one place that my Lord *Russel* was at two Meetings in his House, and afterwards acknowledging that he could not be positive whether or not, was of so unfaithful a Memory, as to forget a remarkable passage which he had discovered before, to wit, that of *Ferguson's* reading a Declaration, which he said nothing of till Sir *George Jefferies* askt him about that Declaration, and then he returns, *Yes now I recollect my self, I remember one Paper was read.* Now he could not have known that, if he had not heard it of *Sheppard* before, for *Rumsey* declared he was not there when it was read, tho' *Sheppard* seemed to be as positive in that, that he was present then, till the other contradicted him, as he was in what he gave in against my Lord *Russel.* Now I say the Loyal *Scimus* Jury-men might have taken notice that the Evidence of a Person so forgetful as *Sheppard* seemed to be, in forgetting so material a passage which he had given in Evidence but two or three days before, should not have been accounted of so great weight in Case of a Noblemans Life, as they reckoned it.

The next Evidence was my Lord *Howard*, who to prepossess the Jury with a belief of this Plot, begins with such a base insinuation, that I think had any of the Jury had the least common either honesty or discretion, they would have suspected the Evidence of this Lord; for he first begins so low, that they could not hear what he said, which did more argue a guilty Conscience than any thing else, and when he was desired by my Lord Chief Justice to raise his voice, he pretended that the news of my Lord *Essex's* Fatal End had sunk his voice; whereas all that are acquainted with his Lordship, know very well that he was not of that Temper; only this was said, to insinuate, as was afterwards sufficiently buzz'd about, that the Earl of *Essex* to escape

escape the hand of Justice had cut his Throat, that the Jury might have a deeper impression upon them of the reality of this Plot. As to the deplorable Murder of this Nobleman, I need not say any thing of it here, there having been lately some Informations published relating to that Noble Lord's Murder, of that weight, that few honest men now doubt of the said Earls having been Assassinated and Murdered by barbarous Ruffians; and I doubt not but in a little time those Bloody Cannibals, the Horrid Actors thereof, shall be brought to condign punishment. Only this I may say, that this was made use of to persuade the Jury of my Lord *Russel*'s guilt, that one who was engaged in the same Plot, out of a sense of such unpardonable guilt, that he who had received such singular marks of his Majesty's Grace and Favour should be so inhumane as to Embark in such a horrid design against his Life, to evite that disgrace that must needs attend him here, had laid violent hands on himself: And this very thing had such influence on the Jury that they brought in my Lord *Russel* Guilty; some of them having since declared that had it not been for this they had found him not Guilty. But when men are forced to have recourse to such unheard-of Villanies to carry on their wicked and malicious designs, it is easie to imagine what shall be the Fate of those Persons they have a Pique at. And this barbarous Murder of the Earl of *Essex* in order to gain credit to their Plot, and to be an additional, if not main Evidence against my Lord *Russel*, is sufficient with all thinking men to invalidate this Plot. For they that imployed those Ruffians knew well enough that if any could expect a Pardon that Earl might, and that besides, his Majesty having such a respect for him, and so firm a persuasion of his Honesty, and consequently, that he would not be engaged in any such Design against his Life, might have doubted of the reality of this Plot, which indeed he did at first (as

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our Author well obſerves) having ſufficiently known what Counter-plots had been hatched before, and proved abortive, and therefore to gain credit to it, they found themſelves obliged to have redreſs to ſuch unchriſtian means; and the ſucceſs did not deceive them, for after his having been given out by the Inqueſt for *Felo deſe*, his late Majeſty did really believe it.

The next thing remarkable in my Lord *Howard*'s Evidence is, that he ſays in his Hear-ſay Evidence, that the Duke of *Monmouth* told him, that my Lord *Ruſſel* was with *Shaftesbury*, being conveyed to him by *Rumſey*; who undoubtedly, had he conveyed him to my Lord *Shafteſbury*, would have been admitted with him, he being, as he pretended, ſo much in the ſaid Earls Councils, and ſo might have given ſome account in his Evidence either of what paſt between them, or at leaſt, that he conveyed the ſaid Lord to my Lord *Shaftesbury*, which he does not in the leaſt make mention of. But my Lord *Howard* might ſay what he pleaſed, there being no body to contradict him, as to this.

Another thing remarkable, is, that upon the Attorney Generals asking my Lord *Howard* in theſe words; *Did he ſit there as a Cypher, what did my Lord ſay*? The ſaid Lord *Howard* anſwered him in theſe; *Every one knows my Lord* Ruſſel *is a perſon of great Judgment, and not very laviſh in Diſcourſe.* And upon Sir *George Jefferies* returning; *But did he conſent?* My Lord *Howard* anſwered; *We did not put it to the Vote, but it went without contradiction, and I took it, that all there gave their conſent.* Lord *Ruſſel*'s Tryal, *pag.* 47. So that here was no poſitive Evidence that my Lord *Ruſſel* gave his conſent, but only that my Lord took it ſo; ſo that all that was Sworn here againſt my Lord *Ruſſel* was, that he was preſent when ſuch Diſcourſe was talkt, and becauſe he did not ſay any thing,

therefore my Lord *Howard* believed he consented to it. So that had those Gentlemen of the Jury had the least Grain either of Conscience or common Sense, they would not have brought in this Nobleman of High Treason upon such Evidence as this, seeing (as the said Lord says in his last Speech) this could be termed no more than Misprision.

Besides, the said Lord *Howard* declares, that there was no way condescended upon for raising of Money, which yet must be the first step to Levying War, the main point of his Indictment that what Evidence was given concerned.

And to conclude, what I could observe from this Tryal, the Evidence that came in for this Noble Lord were sufficient to have invalidated that of my Lord *Howard* against him, for they declared that the said Lord *H.* in their hearing, with hands lifted up to Heaven, and with great Asseverations protested that he knew nothing against my Lord *Russel*. Now I appeal to all the World (how strongly soever the Court carried it otherwise) whether a Man that dare solemnly appeal to God as to any Mans Innocence, if he afterwards Swear against him, be not formally perjured. For pray what is it that constitutes Perjury? Not the presence of the Judge I hope, for if a Judge meerly asks a Man a question, and he answer with a Lye, no Man can call him perjured; but his adjuring him by God and all that is Sacred. Now that a Man can do this to himself, is evident from the Holy Scripture, and has been ever acknowledged by all Casuists, that whosoever privately takes Gods Name to a falshhood, is equally Guilty of Perjury as if he did it before a Judge. Nor were any of the Kings Council able to answer this Objection; for all that they say about it in summing up the Evidence, is my Lords not revealing himself to them; whereas here was more than a not granting of it, which he might easily have done as effectually, and much more safely by waving it, and saying, How should

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he know? or what did it concern him? or some such Expressions, by which he might have been sufficiently secured from their informing against him; and not had recourse to such an Expression as this, As I shall Answer to God, I know nothing against him.

And thus much as to the Tryal of this Noble Lord. By which the Reader may sufficiently see what an honest Jury he had, who without any valid Evidence could contrary both to the Law of God and Man condemn this Innocent Nobleman.

It may not be amiss in the next place to hint at some particulars in Colonel *Sidney*'s Tryal, whose Jury though not the same Men, yet were of the same Loyal Consciences; the Crimes laid to his Charge were Levying of War, and Conspiring the Death of the King, and writing a Treasonable Book. Now it could not be said that those were two Overt Acts in the same Treason, for he might have writ that Book, and yet not conspire against the Life of the King; and besides, 'tis more than probable that Book was writ long before there were any such Designs or Discourses on foot, and therefore both particulars ought to have been proved by two Witnesses; whereas for the former, though to prepossess the Jury there were two or three Hear-say Evidence, yet my Lord *Howard*'s Evidence only was positive; and though there was Evidence enough to have invalidate his, yet the Court was pleased not only not to take any notice of it, but even to discourage and check them; there were besides those who appeared at my Lord *Russel*'s Tryal several others brought, proving the above-said Asseverations, one of L. *H*'s intimate Friends declaring, That if he had been upon his Oath before the King he could not have more firmly believed him. The same Witness said that the Reproof he had at my Lord *Russel*'s Tryal had made him forget some particulars (which shews what Ingenuity was in

the Gentlemen of the Court when any Perſon was before them they had a mind to bring in Guilty.) And when the ſame Gentleman in the Concluſion ſaid according to his Conſcience, That if he were of that Gentleman's Jury he would not believe him, Mr. Attorney was pleaſed to ſay, *That he ought to be bound to good Behaviour for it.* Mr. *Blake*, another Witneſs for Colonel *Sidney* depoſed, that when he asked my Lord *Howard* Six Weeks before his Tryal why he had not his Pardon, his Lordſhip replyed, *I can aſcribe it to no other reaſon; but I muſt not have my Pardon till the drudgery of Swearing is over.* One would think the Jury might have conſidered that a Man under ſo ſtrong a Temptation as Swearing for Life is, might be eaſily induced to ſtretch things to the utmoſt, if not to go beyond the Truth; and therefore ſhould not have laid ſo much ſtreſs upon his Evidence. Then *Trace* and *Penwick* declared that my Lord *Howard* proteſted before God, Colonel *Sidney* knew nothing of it; and the former declared, that he likewiſe ſaid Colonel *Sidney*'s Goods might be ſent to his Houſe. And the latter, that he deſired to have his Plate, and promiſed to ſecure it for him. As for the other part of his Indictment, the Book which was found in his Cloſet (though the ſame Book now would not be accounted ſo Heretical, eſpecially if it were not cull'd out in pieces here and there, but read as continued with the reſt of the Matter of the Book, that then ſo much preacht up Loyalty, which was nothing elſe but a *Præludium* to Popery and Slavery, whereof we have had ſufficient experience ſince, being abated ſeveral Degrees, Reaſon having got ſome more Aſcendant over it) all the proof of this was, that ſome Gentlemen depoſed, that they believed it was his hand, which is no full Evidence in Law (as has been admitted in other caſes.) But beſides, one Mr. *Wharton* declared, that it was ſo eaſie a Hand, that if he had but any of thoſe Sheets of Paper for a

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ſmall time, he would undertake to imitate it ſo as they ſhould not know which is which. But this was taken no notice of. But this Labour of calling in Witneſſes might have been well ſpared: For it might have eaſily been foreſeen that thoſe who had confirmed the Belief of their Plot by the Treacherous and (that wants a due name to expreſs the heinouſneſs of it) Aſſaſſination of one Nobleman, and made that a means to take off another by ſuch Law as was diſpenſed then, would not let it ſuffer in its Reputation by his being cleared, though they had had no other than Hear-ſay Evidence. And had an Angel been ſent from Heaven to give in Evidence for him, they would have obſerved the ſame advice which St. *Paul* gave as to new Doctrines, *viz. Not received it.* And well they might, for there was never a Plot of ſuch advantage to them as this was, which took off thoſe who were for ſtripping them of their *Diana* Madam Arbitrary.

As to Sir *Thomas Armſtrong*, none will deny but he had very hard meaſure dealt him; for when he pleaded the Statute of 6 *Edward* 6th. which allows that before Sentence be pronounced upon an Outlawry, a year muſt expire, yet though the year was not expired, he was condemned upon it. Nor was it to the purpoſe what the then Chief Juſtice anſwered, to wit, that he had not delivered himſelf up; for he ought to have had the full time allowed him that was mentioned in that Statute, before Execution ſhould be awarded. And when Sir *Thomas* deſired the benefit of the Law, he after a domineering manner inſulted over this Gentleman in his Miſery, ordering him to be Executed on *Friday* next according to Law; whereas I ſuppoſe there's no Gentleman in *England* deſerves to have the full benefit of the Law in his own ſenſe more than his Lordſhip.

The laſt of the Perſons Executed for this Plot, was Mr. Sheriff *Corniſh*, of whoſe Tryal I need not ſay any thing, ſeeing

ing the whole Nation is ſufficiently ſenſible of the hard meaſure he was ſerved with; who making more ſolemn Application to God for Vindication of his Innocency, has brought down the Vengeance of God upon ſome of the Jury already, there being three our four of them who have died ſudden and unnatural deaths, the laſt of whom is very remarkable; (*viz.* the Vintner on *Fiſh-ſtreet-Hill*, the ſame perſon who in the beginning of the laſt Summer (by his ſtingy covetous humour) occaſioned the Death of that worthy Gentleman Sir *Charles Pym*) who having been preſent at the late dreadful Fire in *Thames-ſtreet*, was, at the blowing up of a Houſe, killed by a piece of Timber, by Carpenters called the *Corniſh*. It may not be amiſs here to inſert a Paſſage of Sheriff *Corniſh* and his Son, with my L. *Howard*; the latter of whom encountred with my Lord at *Guild-Hall* about the time the heat was in chuſing Sheriffs, and going into a Tavern with his Lordſhip, he endeavoured to inflame this Gentleman againſt the Government, with all the ſpecious pretexts he could, telling him the Citizens were Aſſes; that it was in their own power to redreſs themſelves, if they would; but the Gentleman replied, that it was their buſineſs to mind their own private Affairs and Trade, and not to meddle with matters of Government; he being wary, and not ſo eaſily to be brought in as might be ſuppoſed. The Gentleman going home, gave account of it to his Father, who forbid his Son the ſaid Lord's company. The other, of the Sheriff himſelf was thus; My Lord *Howard* a little after dined at Sheriff *Corniſh*'s Houſe; and after dinner my Lord deſired to ſpeak with him in private, but Mr. Sheriff *Corniſh* refuſed, telling his Lordſhip, if he had any thing to ſay that was lawful, he might freely ſpeak in preſence of the company; if any thing that was unlawful, he would not hear it; nor would he go into a room with him, leſt his own friends might think that they had ſome buſineſs

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betwixt them that might not be talkt of before company; so that the said Lord had at that time no private discourse with him; and suspecting him more, he gave a Watch-word to his Brethren the Aldermen that were for the preserving the Privileges of the City, and were therefore hated at Court, to have a care of coming into my Lord *Howard*'s company, for that he was sure he had a design of ensnaring some People. So that had it not been for Mr. *Cornish*, it's like we should have had some of the Aldermen brought in as Actors in this Plot.

As to what our Author says as to the Duke of *Monmouth*'s being privy to the pretended Assassination of the King; herein he basely asperses him; for there is no positive Evidence for this in his whole History. For Col. *Rumsey* in his further Information, page 14. of the Copies of Informations, says, that when it was asked by some present, whether the Duke of *Monmouth* would not revenge his Fathers Death, that *Ferguson* undertook to have it under the Duke's hand against the next Meeting, and that when they met again, he told them there was no saying any such thing to the Duke: A plain Evidence that the Duke knew nothing of that design. And whereas my Lord *Howard* in his Supplement to his former Information, page 72. of the Informations (by the Title you may observe that, as the Gentleman declared at Mr *Sidney*'s Tryal, this was part of his Drudgery-work) has these words; 'About the 10th or '12th of *October*, after a stop put to the then intended In-'surrection, the Duke of *Monmouth* told me, that he had 'seriously thought of it, meaning the Insurrection, and that 'after diverse ways proposed and seriously considered of, he 'was clearly of opinion that there was nothing so easie to 'be accomplished, nor so probable to do the Work so ef-'fectually, as to fall in upon the King about *New-Market* '[*Observe, not the* Rye-House] with a smart Party of Horse,

'about

'about forty or fifty, which he ſaid he could ſoon have in 'a readineſs. To which I anſwered, That I was of the 'ſame Opinion, but whether or not it would be decent 'for him to appear in perſon in an Attack to be made 'when the King was in perſon, deſerved his conſideration. 'Two days after I ſpoke to him of it again, and askt him 'what thoughts he had of it; he anſwered me, that it could 'not be brought about ſoon enough. In his Depoſition at my Lord *Ruſſel*'s Tryal, page 45. he has theſe words; 'And 'this had carried it to the latter end of *October*. About the '17th or 18th Captain *Walcot* came to me and told me, 'now they were reſolved poſitively to Riſe, and did believe 'that a ſmart Party would meet with ſome Great Men. 'Thereupon I told the Duke of it; I met him in the Street, 'and went out of my Coach into his, and told him, That 'there was ſome dark Intimation, as if there might be ſome 'Attempt upon the King's Perſon; with that he ſtruck his 'Breaſt with a great Emotion of Spirit, and ſaid, Godſo, 'Kill the KING! I will never ſuffer that. Then he went 'to the *Play-Houſe* to find Sir *Thomas Armſtrong*, and ſent 'him up and down the City to put it off, as they did for-'merly; and it was done with that ſucceſs, that we were 'all quieted in our minds that at that time nothing could 'be done. Now I deſire the Reader to judge how theſe two Depoſitions can be reconciled together: and yet betwixt the one paſſage and the other, according to his Depoſition, but four or five days intervene. I do not know if any things ſo contradictory are to be found in Dr. *Oats*'s Depoſitions, for which he has been enjoyned four years ſevere Penance. Theſe are all the Depoſitions I could meet with that relate as to the Duke of *Monmouth*'s being privy to the Aſſaſſination of His Majeſty; and the former, to wit, that of Coll. *Rumſey*, ſeems to acquit him from being privy thereto. And as for my Lord *Howard*'s, the one accuſes

ſes him as guilty of it, and the other plainly acquits him. So that had the Author of that Hiſtory been at the pains to peruſe my Lord *Ruſſel's* Tryal, he would have had ſo much reſpect either to his own, or the Credit of his Hiſtory, as to have left out this paſſage in my Lord *Howard's* Supplement.

As to the Depoſitions taken in *Scotland*, I cannot think any of them valid in Law, nor will any reaſonable Man, when he conſiders what Tortures two of them were put to there, which were nothing inferior to thoſe of the *Spaniſh* Inquiſition, *viz.* Mr. *Carſtairs* and Mr. *Spence*; the latter of whom had firſt his Leg put into the Boot (an Inſtrument there never much in uſe till of late, wherein they put in their Leg, and drive in Wedges till the Bone is bruiſed) afterwards his two Thumbs were put in an Inſtrument they call Tomikins, wherewith they ſqueezed them till the Bones were likewiſe bruiſed; which any Body may know muſt needs cauſe exquiſite pains, and then he was kept ten or eleven days without ſleep, there having conſtantly been by him day and night two Sentinels with Iron pricks to keep him from ſleeping, who, when-ever he began to ſlumber job'd him with thoſe Iron pricks. Now a Gentleman tortured in this manner you may be ſure, though he endured ſo long a time that he extracted Admiration even from his Enemies, though their cruel Hearts harboured no ſuch Gueſts as Pity and Compaſſion, yet he could not long ſubſiſt, and therefore was neceſſitated to condeſcend to their Demands: Mr. *Carſtairs* though he was exempted from the Boot, as may be, ſuppoſing him none of the beſt of Horſemen, yet his Thumbs ſeverely paid for it, they having ſqueezed them thirteen or fourteen times; the pain whereof did ſo torture him, that, as is reported his ſhrieks might have been heard a quarter of a Mile off, and when he was wearied out with their Cruelty,

he promiſed to confeſs to them what he knew, provided they would not make uſe of it againſt any man, which they did; and yet they made uſe of it againſt Mr. *Bailie* of *Jerviſwood*: And they not only broke their promiſe to him, but alſo left out and put in ſentences and words, (may be to make it better ſenſe, that our Author might have the leſs Trouble in compoſing his Hiſtory) which mightily altered the ſenſe of his Depoſition, and taught them to ſpeak more of a Plot than ever he did himſelf. And the ſaid Mr. *Carſtares*, after having acquainted his Friends, as I have heard it of ſeveral of their own Mouths (knowing that having been ſo Ingenuous as to tell his Friends how he had been abuſed in this particular, he might have been brought before my Lord's Inquiſitors, to have been examined again) quickly withdrew himſelf from that Kingdom. Now as to the reſt of the Evidence there, you may eaſily be perſuaded, that they, ſeeing what treatment thoſe two had, would take what care they could to ſave themſelves from the like; and ſo what pain might extort from the former, fear might do the ſame from them. And if ſerved in their Evidence as Mr. *Carſtare's* was, they durſt not ſay any thing againſt it, as remaining ſtill there, and ſo further queſtionable for it.

By what has been above ſaid, it plainly appears that there was no deſign of taking off the King concluded upon in either of their Meetings, but that it was firſt mentioned in diſcourſe by the Evidence, as the moſt compendious way to free themſelves and the Nation from the Fears they at that time were poſſeſſed with; but that very few of the reſt ever aſſented to ſo barbarous a deſign, but expreſſed their greateſt deteſtation of it; nor can they be blamed ſo much for not diſcovering of it, eſpecially ſeeing they knew it could not be accompliſhed without their Aid. Nor is it probable that either my Lord *Ruſſel*, or any of their

their Club, had it ever directly communicated to them, whatever my Lord *Howard* would ſuggeſt to the contrary, in the words immediately following thoſe laſt mentioned in my Lord *Ruſſel's* Tryal; *viz.* that upon the day that the King came from *New-Market* they dined together, the Duke of *Monmouth*, and the Lord *Gray*, with others being there, *that a Notion was conveyed among them* (by whom he does not mention, and therefore 'tis moſt probable 'twas done by himſelf) *that ſome bold Action ſhould be done that day*, which, ſays he, comparing it with the King's coming, they concluded it was deſigned upon the King, and that my Lord *Gray* affirmed with an Oath, that if they attempted any ſuch thing it could not fail. *That they were in great Anxiety of Mind* till they heard the King's Coach was come to Town, and that Sir *Tho. Armſtrong* not being there, he was ſuppoſed to be one of the Party. Now why ſuch a Notion ſhould be conveyed among them at that time, I cannot underſtand; (eſpecially when it was falſe, there having been no preparation made thereto, except it was *conveyed* to enſnare them) and that by his Lordſhip himſelf; and I am apt to think, that, to uſe his own words in his Supplement, this might be the firſt time it was mentioned, and that when his Lordſhip could not have ſuch entertainment for it amongſt thoſe Lords as he wiſhed, he committed it to his Brethren the Evidences, to have the *Notion conveyed by them* to the others, who he thought would entertain it more favourably. One thing the Reader may take notice of, that his Lordſhips words in the Relation of it, are very ambiguous, and may be taken in ſeveral ſenſes, particularly theſe words, *We were in great Anxiety of Mind, till we heard the King's Coach was come in*, &c. But I ſhall not further trouble the Reader with it, not doubting but that every honeſt Engliſh-man is by this time ſatisfied of the Innocency of all the Gentlemen that

ſuffered, as to the pretended deſign of taking off the late King.

As to the other part of the Accuſation; *viz.* Levying War, with deſign to alter the Government; if every thing be duly weighed, we ſhall find this nothing near as it was repreſented to be, tho' there is not the leaſt doubt but they have had ſome Conſultations among them as to the ſecuring their Religion and Properties, in a time when there were ſuch apparent dangers hanging over their Heads, and that in thoſe Meetings many things might be propoſed *pro* and *con*. But that Noble-men of that Integrity and Religion, as the Earl of *Eſſex*, and my Lord *Ruſſel* were, ſhould be concerned in any deſign to overturn the Government, no man that was ever intimate with them will believe. It is too plain now that thoſe whom it moſt concerned to ſupport the Government and Eſtabliſhed Religion, were the perſons that made the greateſt breaches therein, and that their Illegal Proceedings gave juſt ground of fear and ſuſpicion of a deſign on foot by them to overturn the old Eſtabliſhment, and to introduce Popery and Slavery: For in the firſt place, the Popiſh Plot was endeavoured by all means to be ſtifled, and ſeveral attempts made to turn it upon Proteſtants; and tho' it pleaſed God ſeveral times to bring to Light their hidden Contrivances, yet were they ſtill countenanced by Authority; and tho' there had been ſome of the Branches lopt off, yet all perſons that were not wholly blinded, might eaſily have ſeen that the Body it ſelf remained untouched, yea rather cheriſhed. And it is well known how thoſe that were moſt active againſt it were diſcountenanced. Parliaments were diſſolved and laid aſide, as finding that it was impoſſible to ſupport that Cauſe, and carry on their Deſigns ſo long as that great Court ſate. All underhand means were uſed to divide Proteſtants among themſelves, and to ſtir up Feuds and Animoſities between them, which they

they ſo far prevailed in, that one party of them uſed their utmoſt endeavour to ruine another, never conſidering the common Enemy that was hovering over their heads to devour both. Manifeſt Breaches were made upon their Priviledges by endeavouring to ſet up ſuch publick Miniſters as would be wholly at the Intereſt of the Court; iſſuing out *Quo Warranto*'s againſt Cities and Corporations, that they might become wholly in the Power, and at the Devotion of the Court. And this once obtained 'twas eaſie to imagine what treatment every Honeſt Proteſtant might expect. A party was employed, and others by their Rewards allured, to cry up boundleſs Monarchy, to aſſert its abſolute Power, and that if Kings ſhould Act the greateſt Tyrannies, yea greater than ever yet were perpetrated in the World, even againſt the whole Body of the People, yet it was their bounden Duty to ſubmit, and to hold out their Throats if they had a mind to cut them; yea, that it was one of the moſt damnable ſins that could be committed, for people to uſe any means for their own preſervation. And this, as it was a great Temptation to Princes, while they hoped by this means to carry on whatſoever deſigns they pleaſed, and made them aſſume the boldneſs to Act things which otherwiſe they would never have hazarded upon, ſo it could not but be very terrifying to all thoſe who had not quite ſhut their Eyes. And this Terror was encreaſed while they conſidered, that if it was ſo with them, even under one who was a profeſt Proteſtant Prince, what could they expect when one ſhould rule over them who was wholly abandoned to the Counſel of Prieſts and Jeſuits? I ſay, all theſe things conſidered, it is none of the greateſt matter of Admiration if thoſe who had as lively an impreſſion of the miſery and unſpeakable danger of being left to the mercy of the Jeſuits, as if they had been already ſprawling under their feet, were rouſed up to act ſome things they had otherwiſe never

never thought of, much more be eaſily drawn into a ſnare by ſuch as were ſet on to trapan them. So that what deſigns ſome of thoſe Honeſt Noblemen and Gentlemen had, and the great Zeal they expreſſed towards their Religion and Liberties, ought not to have been requited with that Ignominy and Diſgrace that their Memories have been loaded with by too many of late years. We may eaſily imagine with our ſelves, that if it had pleaſed God to have puniſhed us ſo far for our ſins (which undoubtedly have deſerved greater Judgments than were ever yet inflicted upon Mortals) as to have put a ſtop to our late glorious Preſervation, by blaſting the Deſigns of thoſe whom he made uſe of as Inſtruments for the final Deliverance of his Church from the Tyrannies and Idolatries of that Scarlet Whore, thoſe Noble Lords and Gentlemen who joyned in ſo good and pious Deſigns, had been maligned and defamed in the ſame manner; nay, and no doubt had been mete with the ſame meaſure they were; and there would not have been wanting Court-Paraſites who would have repreſented them as the baſeſt Miſcreants. And yet I hope there is no ſincere Proteſtant, but does, and always did, from his firſt hearing of it, approve of ſo glorious an undertaking, and ſent up his moſt ardent Prayers to God Almighty for his Succeſs on ſo Juſt an Enterprize, whatever ſome wicked wretches, who are a ſtain to Humane Nature, would have perſuaded us to the contrary, that ſo having ſtript us of what God and the Laws of our Country had conferred upon us for our defence, they might have ſatiated their barbarous Cruelty with our Blood. And therefore ſeeing we have all the reaſon in the World to believe that the Earl of *Eſſex*, my Lord *Ruſſel*, and ſome other honeſt Patriots, had no deſign either againſt the late King's Perſon or Government, nor any ſiniſter aim before them, but entred upon thoſe Counſels meerly for the Good of the King and People in general, it would

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be the height of Uncharitableneſs as well as Ingratitude, to ſuffer our ſelves any more to be impoſed upon ſo far, as to give heed to the undeſerved Aſperſions, the Writer of that Hiſtory of the Plot, or any other Court Hiſtorian hath caſt upon them. But I hope there are ſome now here, who, both as being perſons of known Abilities, and likewiſe ſuch as can give a more particular Account, as having been privy to all of it themſelves, will both do thoſe Lords the Juſtice, and themſelves the Favour, as to vindicate their own Innocency, and expoſe the Falſhoods of that Hiſtory.

Before I conclude, I ſhall only reflect a little on the carriage of ſome hot-headed men of the Church of *England* ſince the pretended Diſcovery of this Plot, who took occaſion thence to inveigh afreſh, with all the Railleries that Malice it ſelf could invent, againſt Proteſtant Diſſenters, repreſenting them as the worſt of Men, worſe than Papiſts, yea even than Heathens; and by this means they did ſo far prevail upon the ignoranter ſort of common people, that till this day many of them harbour moſt uncharitable Sentiments of them; ſo that 'tis very uſual for them to ſay, that they would rather be Papiſts than Presbyterians. Which very expreſſion is enough to render them Odious to all good Chriſtians, and ſhews how little they have of that Religion they profeſs; while they thus malign perſons who agree with them in all the Subſtantials of Religion, meerly becauſe they cannot condeſcend to the uſe of ſome Ceremonies, which all moderate men have acknowledged to be in themſelves indifferent, and which may be uſed or omitted as the Church ſhall ſee expedient, without any ſin; and yet have ſuch a favourable Opinion of the Papiſts, tho' they are guilty of groſs Idolatry, and have ſo corrupted the Chriſtian Religion, as in a great meaſure to render it uſeleſs for that great end for which it was inſtituted? *viz.* the Salvation of Souls. Nor did their Malice reſt in traducing of Diſſenters, but they vomited

vomited up their Gall against most of the Churches abroad, particularly the Church of *Holland* and *Geneva*, as maintaining those they call damnable Common-wealth Principles. They also cast Dirt in the Face of the most renowned Reformers, such as *Calvin*, *Beza*, &c. and represented them as the worst of men, meerly because they had written against Arbitrary and Boundless Power; and it is not long since, at the Instigation of those men, (tho' to the great dissatisfaction of all Honest men, and Good Patriots of the Church of *England*) some of their Works were publickly burnt at *Oxford*: Whereby in effect they strengthned the hands of Papists, and joyned with them in aspersing the Memories of those whom God had made so instrumental in delivering a great part of *Europe* from the Tyrannies and Idolatries of the Church of *Rome*, and consequently in blemishing the Reformation it self. Yea it is too well known how they hated and maligned the Learnedest and Gravest of the Clergy, & the Body of the Discreet & Religious Laity of our own Church, (who, blessed be God, were 3 times their number) and branded them with the Opprobrious name of *Trimmer*, who in effect have under God preserved these Kingdoms from Bloodshed and Confusion, which must needs have ensued, had those hot-heads had the upper hand, so far as to have filled up the House of Commons in Parliament. And these were the Men who were generally preferred at Court, as being the only persons whose Principles and Interest led them to advance Arbitrary and Despotick Designs. And I may justly say, that next to that Hellish Crew of Jesuits, none have had a greater hand in all the Confusions and Distractions that have been in these Kingdoms for a great many years past than these very men.

I might have reflected on their Carriage since our late glorious Deliverance, but since I design'd to confine my self within these bounds I shall forbear, and in the mean while am yours, &c.

FINIS.